

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A wide area network printing system receives print data from a contents server. A document server then sends the print data to a printer that is remote from the document server but in communication therewith via the Internet for printout. The document server determines a payer based on the document ID sent from the printer, and stores accounting data. The printer collects a fee from the print data recipient, if the print data recipient is judged to be the payer, but does not collect the fee from the print data recipient, if a print data provider is judged to be the payer. With this arrangement, the print fee is collected from the user depending on a judgment as to whether the print data is provided on fee-based service or for free. Thus, expenses relating to printout are collected properly.